

GABRIELLA DARIS, JOHN LENNON & YOKO ONO  
AT UNIVERSITIES OF CAMBRIDGE & KINGSTON

*addendum to <http://www.abar.net/lennonono.pdf>*

Gabriella Daris is, at the time of writing, a doctoral art student at Kingston University, working on Yoko Ono. In 2019 she curated a series of events in Cambridge to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the appearance of John Lennon and Yoko Ono at the Natural Music concert at Lady Mitchell Hall, beginning with the unveiling on 2 March 2019 of a plaque “with the kind permission of Yoko Ono” at the Hall to the two of them. I learned about this in the autumn of 2019 when I came across an online posting of BBC Cambridgeshire’s reportage of the unveiling.

It hardly needs saying that this is an irresponsible, ignorant, insult to the memory of the other musicians, many of whom are deceased, for whom I truly built the concert. It is a falsification of the history of the concert. Protracted efforts to have this rectified have come to nothing. Rectification would best entail the removal of the existing plaque to be replaced by a plaque listing all the musicians, or none at all.

Gabriella Daris, her tutors, department heads, Vice Chancellor’s office, at Kingston University remained silent through six months of escalation of this grievance. At Cambridge University, the management of Lady Mitchell Hall suggested that I could apply to have my own plaque listing the other musicians, for which I would have to find my own funding. Escalation of the grievance was met with silence by the Registry. It did eventually receive an inadequate response from the Vice Chancellor’s Office, followed in May by the Office’s advice to take up the matter—yet again—of Daris’s academic integrity, her lack of it, with Kingston, to which Kingston’s Pro Vice Chancellor eventually responded that their student’s activities in Cambridge were nothing to do with them.

This is an interim posting of the circumstances surrounding Gabriella Daris’s abuse. More details will follow.

Anthony Barnett, April 2020, updated 14, 22 May 2020